

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Without acceding to the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Claims 1, 3, and 4 have been amended to set forth certain distinguishing features of Applicants' invention with greater particularity. Claims 2 and 5 have been canceled in view of the amendments to Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 1, 3, and 4 remain for further consideration.

It is apparent that the Fujiu et al. and Iida et al. references, which were cited as the basis for the outstanding rejections, neither teach nor suggest Applicants' invention, at least as presently claimed. Regarding Claim 1, note, for example, the formation of the bracket from a plurality of individual components, including a U-shaped main body component and two separate bracket components; and note further the arrangement of insertion holes, insertion projections, caulking recesses and caulking projections as particularly set forth. Regarding Claims 3 and 4, note, for example, the column-side bracket having individual components connected to each other via respective caulking recesses and caulking projections.

In view of the amendments presented herein, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and that this application now be passed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (XA-10194) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /Mitchell W. Shapiro/
Mitchell W. Shapiro
Reg. No. 31,568

Miles & Stockbridge, P.C.
1751 Pinnacle Drive
Suite 500
McLean, Virginia 22102-3833
(703) 903-9000

Michael A. Minter
Reg. No. 58,797

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